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NEWS BRIEFS

147 arrested in Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, Sept 1 : Police rounded up 147 persons on various charges from 12 districts of Chittagong range today under their Operation Doorbar-91. Two pipe guns were also recovered, reports BSS.

Yeltsin to control currency

MOSCOW, Sept 1 : Russian Federation President Boris N Yeltsin has claimed veto power over ministries and banks involving foreign currency, precious stones and metals. Yeltsin barred the Soviet Finance Ministry, State Bank and Bank for Foreign Economic Relations from making such transactions without approval from the corresponding Russian agencies, Interfax said, reports AP.

Raisa recovers from shock

MOSCOW, Sept 1 : Raisa Gorbachev has recovered from the shock of the coup d'état and is in good health, her husband Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said today. "Everything is fine" with his wife, Gorbachev said twice in an interview with US-based CNN and Soviet television, reports AFP.

Owen retires from politics

LONDON, Sept 1 : David Owen, the former British Foreign Secretary and former leader of the defunct Social Democratic Party (SDP), is retiring from politics and will not stand in the next General Elections, the Sunday Times reported, reports AFP.

Owen, 53, told the paper he did not have any plans for the future, but the Times said he could be named as the next governor of Hong Kong.

EC official in Croatia

BELGRADE, Sept 1 : A senior European Community official arrived Sunday amid scattered fighting in the Croatian countryside to try and cement an EC plan meant to end the bloody inter-ethnic conflict, reports AP.



BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a mammoth gathering at Manik Mia Avenue on Sunday to mark the 13th founding anniversary of the party.

— Star photo.

Commemorative stamps on martyrs of movement : Khaleda

Politics of intrigue against democracy to be eliminated

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chief and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has warned against politics of intrigue to disrupt the democratic process saying that the people would eliminate the conspirators from the soil of Bangladesh.

Addressing a mammoth public meeting on Sunday at the Manik Mia Avenue in observance of the 13th founding anniversary of the BNP,

Expressing her determination to continue the democratic process Begum Zia said, "We are not afraid of anybody ... we believe in power of the people."

Khaleda Zia announced that the government had already taken decision to introduce three commemorative stamps on the martyrs of the anti-autocratic movement so that the people would always remember their sacrifice.

The three stamps would carry the images of Noor Hosain, Jaglu and Zehad killed on November 10, 1987 at the height of anti-Ershad movement and October 10, 1989 respectively, said the Prime Minister.

She said that it was not possible to compensate the families of those who laid down their lives for the sake of democracy, but the government

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BNP, AL beefing up their organisational strength

By Md. Jafar Naser

A new polarisation centering the two major political parties — the ruling BNP and the opposition Awami League is in the offing, according to well informed sources.

The polarisation owes its dimension to the new parliamentary system of government, the process of which will be completed with the holding of a referendum on this issue and the election of a titular President.

According to BNP sources the party has taken up a programme to strengthen the organisation at the grassroot

level for which it has laid emphasis on the induction of political forces in different organisation tiers.

The BNP has already started holding upazila-level party conferences while the Awami League completed the conferences of maximum of its upazila units last year.

Meanwhile, an independent MP Redwanul Haque has already joined the BNP while two other independent MPs Major (Retd) Hafiz and Nurul Islam Moni are also being wooed into joining the BNP.

Besides, workers of differ-

ent political parties including many from the Awami League have also joined the BNP. In the course of this process a large number of former AL workers, from its stronghold in Tangail have already joined the BNP.

According to a BNP source, JSD leader Shahjahan Siraj MP who got tacit support from the BNP during his election from Tangail has started lobbying with the BNP towards a unity.

Shahjahan Siraj who supported late president Ziaur Rahman during his presiden-

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MYMENSINGH, Sept 1 : Seven people, including two activists of the Jatiyatabadi Juba Dal, were injured in an armed attack on BNP founding anniversary function in the town hall here this evening, reports UNB.

In retaliation, the ruling BNP supporters allegedly set fire to the district Awami League office.

Witnesses said pro-Awami League Chhatra League (A) activists suddenly attacked the function firing several gun shots and exploding cocktails.

Juba Dal leaders Giasuddin

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BAU students forced to vacate nine halls

MYMENSINGH, Sept 1 : Authorities today forced students to vacate nine residential halls of Bangladesh Agriculture University as tension gripped the area following Saturday's campus shutdown, reports UNB.

The decision to vacate halls was taken this morning in an emergency meeting with the deans and provosts with Vice-Chancellor Prof M Asadur Rahman presiding.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activists staged demonstration last night in front of VC's house protesting the closure of the varsity up to September 18. Other student groups also lodged protest.

Students were asked at 12 noon today by loudspeaker to leave their dormitories by 3 pm.

Reliance Wishes

Japan-Bangladesh Economic Forum A Grand Success



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Coastal embankments repaired, better harvest expected

From Mostafa Kamal Majumder

following the April 29 cyclone and tidal surge four months ago.

Most of the 50-kilometre embankment washed away by the tidal surge has been repaired, said Nurul Alam. He was confident about the prospect of a good arable harvest if the embankment holds against the dangerous 'chora jor' (sudden spring tide) of September.

As large roaring waves of the Bay of Bengal were crashing on the embankment to resume agricultural production.

Thanks to a Food for Work emergency rehabilitation programme launched at the instance of the World Food Programme (WFP) that one lakh islanders of Kutubdia, battered by the century's worst cyclone, now have a hope. Earthwork is impossible in the area during the rainy season when most of the land remains submerged in high tide, and rains easily erode unsettled soil. The coastal people have done the impossible.

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